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ORIGINAL POETRY.

THE MAY-DAY SKETCH.

There are gems that deck the wildwood,
Glorious, beautiful and bright;

Opening buds and gorgeous flowers
Greet the morning's rosy light.

There are joys that oft times cluster
Gently 'round the human heart;
But like summer blooms they wither,
As they soon for aye depart.

The May-day sun, with golden beams,
Had crowned the western hills;
And many bright and rosy gleams
Played on the silvery rills.

A mantle o'er the valley green,
Of rich and royal beauty fell,
Where woodland gems of every hue,
Adorn the fairy-whispering dell.

Spring had awoke in nature's harp
Sweet silvery tones of mirth and glee;
And from the fountain of the heart
Responded strains of melody.
And with the vesper bell's soft chime,
From voices breathing nought but glee,
Low, witching music far and near,
Was wafted on the perfumed air.

Ay, lovely maids with eyes of light,
All decked with Flora's diadem,
Danced gaily in the sunset bright,
And woke the pealing May-day hymn.
The wand'rer and the sportsman hailed
That hymn mid distant forest trees,
As echoes softly sailed away,
Far upon the flower-kissed breeze.

Another heard those festive strains;
Upon an orphan's heart they fell,
While kneeling in the church yard, near,
Beside a grave she loved full well.

Yes by a mother's tomb she knelt,

Alone, upon that festal day;
And there, with bursts of wildest grief,
Poured forth her melancholy lay:

'Mother, I've heard the fairy song
That on the breeze was swept along,
Borne from the haunts of mirth and glee;
With it there came no help to me—
No spell my sadness to destroy,
And bid my heart awake to joy.'

'This world is dark and very drear,
With none to soothe, with none to cheer.
Earth's pleasing scenes I greet no more,
Life's sunny smiles for me are o'er.
The lone, dark forest-shades I roam
To weep when I am all alone.'

'There's nothing in this time of flowers
That hath a voice for me,
The whispering leaves the sunny hours,
The bright, the glad, the free.
There's nothing but thy own deep love,
And that will live on high;
Kind mother, now my heart's above,
Then mother let me die.'

Again, upon the still green earth,
Night dropped her silvery veil,
Brightly the star of night came forth
And moonbeams danced o'er stream and dale

No more was heard the May-day song,
No more the orphan's plaintive tone.
Silence had spread her viewless wing,—
All, all was tranquil, all was lone.

Those evening stars, with pensive rays,
As in the azure vault they shone,
Looked down upon the mother's grave,
She rested not in death alone;

But, side by side in solitude,
The mother and the orphan lay,
While their bright spirits wandered free
In realms of never-fading day.

Oft in the gladsome May of life,
When fairy whispers haunt the dell,
There are bitter, unsoothed sorrows
Pent up within the soul's deep well.
Oh! how one note of sympathy,
Would cheer the heart in those lone hours
But no, those voices only tell,
May hopes oft wither like May flowers.

CLARA A. CORN:

The Spirit of Peace.

BY MISS LUCY A. RANDALL.

Spirit of Peace!

Thou holy white-winged vision of the Lord,
Thou golden harp, whose every tuncful chord
Bids sorrow cease;

Where is thy home?
Is it where kingly grandeur is displayed,
Where stained windows cast their gorgeous shade,
Neath some rich dome?

Or dost thou dwell
In forests deep, where, in their haughty pride,
An hundred oaks have grown, and bloomed, and died,
Within the dell?

Or is thy home
On solitary rocks, 'mid mighty seas,
Where thundering surges sing their midnight glees,
And waters foam?

Or in the grave
Where marble tombstones mark the burial spot
Of sleepers, who once were, but now are not,
And yew trees wave?

In none of these!
Not in glad halls, nor in the greenwoods lone,
Nor in the grave, nor where the surges moan,
Is gentle Peace!

She is not there!
Thou pilgrim in the trackless waste of earth,
Thou mourner at the desolated hearth,
Seek her not there!

— But in that land
Where bright-winged angels wake their golden lyres,
And sing the praises which their God inspires,
In one sweet band!

Where troubles cease,
Lying upon the Savior's gentle breast,
Where tears come not, and weary spirits rest,
Dwells holy Peace!

Miscellany.**A LION IN THE WAY.**

Extract from "Kaloolah, or the Adventures of Jonathan Romer."

"A little rocky peninsula juttied into the river, and was connected to the main land by a narrow isthmus. The sides were quite steep and jagged, rising about five or six feet in height, or enough to protect us from the visits of the river monsters, while a large fire upon the narrow neck afforded a full defence towards the land. The area of the peninsula was just sufficient to accommodate our party, beasts and all. Here we picketed our steeds, pitched Kaloolah's tent, and arranged our baggage. The rest of the day was consumed in building a shanty of bushes, cutting fodder for our horses, and collecting firewood.

We passed a pleasant night, although, had not our ears been hardened by our long and intimate companionship with wild beasts of every description, we should perhaps have been disturbed by the loud whining and plashing of the crocodile, the deep breathing and floundering of the hippopotamus, the bark of the jackall and hyena, or the thundering roar of the lion that occasionally reverberated along the cliffs, starting for a while to silence the inferior beasts. We slept, however, with an unusual feeling of security.

Our position was a strong one, in fact perfectly impregnable—a real Gibraltar of an encampment to our prowling and growling foes.

The next morning we started in search of some kind of material for a raft. We had not gone far up the stream when we came across a large hollow tree, about fifty feet in height, without branches, except near the top, where it put forth ten or twelve arms, somewhat resembling the sturdy and awkward looking limbs of the dragon tree. It was a little more than two feet in diameter, and although decayed near the roots, so as to expose its hollow-heartedness, it seemed to enjoy a vigorous old age.

"There," said Jack, "that would be just the thing if we had it down, and cut up into three or four lengths, with any way of stopping the ends."

"The easiest thing in the world. You see to getting it down, and I will find something with which to cover the ends. Or, rather, as we shall need lashing to hold the pieces together, you shall manufacture the necessary rope out of the skins that I will furnish, and Hugh shall superintend cutting the tree."

Leaving Kaloolah and her maid in charge of Jack, and Hugh with the two guides hard at work upon the tree, I took Hassan with me, and moved into the woods in search of skins. Nothing of sufficient size could come amiss, and it took but a short time to shoot and flay more than twenty animals, among whom hardly two were of the same species.

At sunset Hugh had the tree down, and Jack had twisted a large quantity of rope. The tree had now to be cut into three pieces of about twelve feet in length, the openings at the ends to be secured with skins, and the logs got into the water and firmly lashed together into a raft. Without any of the proper means and appliances, this was a work of time, and it was not until the fifth day that the raft was ready for its burden.

It was early on the morning of the sixth, that, accompanied by Kaloolah and the lively Clefenha, I ascended the bank for a final reconnaissance of the country on the other bank of the river. It was not my intention to wander far, but allured by the beauty of the scene, and the promise of a still better view from a higher crag, we moved along the edge of the bank until we had got nearly two miles from our camp. At this point the line of the bank curved towards the river so as to make a beetling promontory of a hundred feet perpendicular descent. The gigantic trees grew quite thick on the brink, many of them throwing their long arms far over the shore below. The trees generally grew wide apart, and there was little or no underwood, but many of the trunks wreathed with the verdure of parasites and creepers so as to shut up, mostly, the forest vistas with immense columns of green leaves and flowers. The stems of some of these creepers were truly wonderful; one from which depended large bunches of scarlet berries, had, not unfrequently stems as large as a man's body. In some cases one huge plant of this kind, ascending with an incalculable prodigality of lignin, by innumerable convolutions, would stretch itself out, and, embracing several trees in its folds, mat them together in one dense mass of vegetation.

Suddenly we noticed that the usual sounds of the forest had almost ceased around us. Deep in the wood we could still hear the chattering of monkeys and the screeching of parrots. Never before had our presence created any alarm among the denizens of the tree tops; or, if it had, it had merely excited to fresh clamor, without putting them to flight. We looked around for the cause of this sudden retreat.

"Perhaps," I replied to Kaloolah's inquiry, "there is a storm gathering, and they are gone to seek shelter deeper in the wood."

We advanced close to the edge of the bank, and looked out into the broad daylight that poured down from above on flood and field. There was the same bright smile on the distant fields and hills; the same clear sheen in the deep water; the same lustrous stillness in the perfumed air; not a single prognostic of any commotion among the elements!

I placed my gun against a tree, and took a seat upon an exposed portion of one of its roots. Countless herds of animals, composed of quaggas, zebras, gnus, antelopes, hart-beasts, roboks, springboks, buffaloes, wild boars, and a dozen other kinds, for which my recollection of African travels furnished no names, were roaming over the fields on the other side of the river, or quietly reposing in the shade of the scattered mitmosas, or beneath the groups of lofty palms. A herd of thirty or forty tall ungainly figures came in sight, and took their way, with awkward but rapid pace, across the plain. I knew them at once to be giraffes, although they were the first that we had seen. I was straining my eyes to discover the animal that pursued them, when Kaloolah called to me to come to her. She was about fifty yards further down the stream than where I was sitting. With an unaccountable degree of carelessness, I arose and went towards her, leaving my gun leaning against the tree. As I advanced, she ran out to the extreme point of the little promontory. I have mentioned, where her maid was standing, and pointed to something over the edge of the cliff.

"Oh, Jon'than!" she exclaimed, "what a curious and beautiful flower! Come, and try if you can get it for me!"

Advancing to the crest of the cliff, we stood looking down its precipitous sides to a point some twenty feet below, where grew a bunch of wild honeysuckles.—Suddenly a startling noise, like the roar of thunder, or like the boom of a thirty-two pounder, rolled through the wood, fairly shaking the sturdy trees, and literally making the ground quiver beneath our feet. Again it came, that appalling and indescribably awful sound! and so close as to completely stun us. Roar upon roar, in quick succession, now announced the coming of the king of beasts. "The lion! the lion!—Oh, God of mercy! where is my gun?" I started forward, but it was too late. Alighting, with a magnificent bound, into the open space in front of us, the monster stopped, as if somewhat taken aback by the novel appearance of his quarry, and crouching his huge carcass close to the ground, uttered a few deep snuffing sounds, not unlike the preliminary crankings and growlings of a heavy steam engine, when it first feels the pressure of the steam.

He was, indeed, a monster!—fully twice as large as the largest specimen of his kind that was ever condemned, by gaping curiosity, to the confinement of the cage. His body was hardly less in size than that of a dray horse; his paw as large as the foot of an elephant; while his head!—what can be said of such a head! Concentrate the fury, the power, the capacity and the disposition for evil of a dozen thunder storms into a round globe, about two feet in diameter, and one would then be able to get an idea of the terrible expression of that head and face, enveloped and set off as it was by the dark frame work of bristling mane.

The lower jaw rested upon the ground; the mouth was slightly open, showing the rows of white teeth and the blood-red gums, from which the lips were retracted in a majestic and right kingly grin. The brows and the skin around the eyes were corrugated into a splendid glory of radiant wrinkles, in the centre of which glowed two small globes, like opals, but with a dusky lustrousness that noopal ever yet attained.

For a few moments he remained motionless, and then, as if satisfied with the result of his close scrutiny,

he began to slide along the ground towards us: slowly one monstrous paw was protruded after the other; slowly the huge tufted tail waved to and fro, sometimes striking his hollow flanks, and occasionally coming down upon the ground with a sound like the falling of heavy clouds upon the coffin. There could be no doubt of his intention to charge us, when near enough for a spring.

And was there no hope? Not the slightest, at least for myself. It was barely possible that one victim would satisfy him, or that, in the contest that was about to take place, I might, if he did not kill me at the first blow, so wound him as to indispose him for any further exercise of his power, and that thus Kaloolah would escape. As for me, I felt that my time had come. With no weapon but my long knife, what chance was there against such a monster? I cast one look at the gun that was leaning so carelessly against the tree beyond him, and thought how easy it would be to send a bullet through one of those glowing eyes, into the depths of that savage brain. Never was there a fairer mark! But alas! it was impossible to reach the gun! Truly, "there was a lion in the path."

I turned to Kaloolah, who was a little behind me. Her face expressed a variety of emotions; she could not speak or move, but she stretched out her hand, as if to pull me back. Behind her crouched the black, whose features were contracted into the awful grin of intense terror; she was too much frightened to scream but in her face a thousand yells of agony and fear were incarnated.

I remember not precisely what I said, but in the fewest words, I intimated to Kaloolah that the lion would probably be satisfied with attacking me, that she must run by us as soon as he sprang upon me, and returning to the camp, waste no time, but set out at once under the charge of Hugh and Jack. She made no reply and I waited for none, but, facing the monster advanced slowly towards him—the knife was firmly grasped in my right hand, my left side a little turned towards him, and my left arm raised, to guard as much as possible against the first crushing blow of his paw. Farther than this I had formed no plan of battle. In such a contest the mind has but little to do—all depends upon the instinct of the muscles; and well for a man if good training has developed that instinct to the highest. I felt that I could trust mine, and that my brain need not bother itself as to the manner my muscles were going to act.

Within thirty feet of my huge foe I stopped—cool, calm as a statue; not an emotion agitated me. No hope, no fear; death was too certain to permit either passion. There is something in the conviction of the immediate inevitableness of death that represses fear; we are then compelled to take a better look at the king of terrors, and we find that he is not so formidable as we imagined. Look at him with averted glances, and half-closed eyes, and he has a most imposing, overawing presence; but face him, eye to eye; grasp his proffered hand manfully, and he sinks from a right royal personage, into a contemptible old gate keeper on the turnpike of life.

I had time to think of many things, although it must not be supposed from the leisurely way in which I here tell the story, that the whole affair occupied much time. Like lightning, flashing from link to link along a chain conductor, did memory illuminate, almost simultaneously, the chain of incidents that measured my path in life, and that connected the present with the past. I could see the whole of my back track "blazed," as clearly as ever was a forest path by a woodman's axe; and ahead! ah, there was not much to see ahead! 'Twas but a short view; death hedged in the scene. In a few

minutes my eyes would be opened to the pleasant sights beyond; but, for the present, death commanded all attention. And such a death! But why such a death? What better death, except on the battle field, in defence of one's country? To be killed by a lion! Surely, there is a spice of dignity about it, maugre the being eaten afterwards. Suddenly the monster stopped and erected his tail stiff and motionless in the air. Strange as it may seem, the conceit occurred to me that the motion of his tail had acted as a safety valve to the pent up muscular energy within: "He has shut the steam off from the 'scape pipe, and now he turns it on to his locomotive machinery! God have mercy upon me!—He comes!"

But he did not come! At that instant, the light figure of Kaloolah rushed past me:—"Fly, fly, Jon'than!" she wildly exclaimed, as she dashed forward directly towards the lion. Quick as thought, I divined her purpose, and sprang after her, grasping her dress, and pulling her forcibly back, almost from within those formidable jaws. The astonished animal gave several jumps sideways and backwards, and stopped, crouching to the ground and growling and lashing his sides with renewed fury. He was clearly taken aback by our unexpected charge upon him, but it was evident that he was not to be frightened into abandoning his prey. His mouth was made up for us, and there could be no doubt, if his motions were a little slow, that he considered us as good as gorged.

"Fly! fly, Jon'than!" exclaimed Kaloolah, as she struggled to break from my grasp. "Leave me!—Leave me to die alone, but oh! save yourself, quick! along the bank. You can escape—fly!"

"Never, Kaloolah," I replied, fairly forcing her with quite an exertion of strength behind me. "Back, back! Free my arm! Quick! quick! He comes!" It was no time for gentleness. Roughly shaking her relaxing grasp from my arm she sunk powerless, yet not insensible, to the ground, while I had just time to face the monster and plant one foot forward to receive him.

He was in the very act of springing! His huge carcass was even rising under the impulsion of his contracting muscles, when his action was arrested in a way so unexpected, so wonderful, and so startling, that my senses were for the moment thrown into perfect confusion. Could I trust my sight, or was the whole affair the illusion of a horrid dream?—It seemed as if one of the gigantic creepers I have mentioned had suddenly quitted the canopy above, and, endowed with life and a huge pair of widely distended jaws, had darted with the rapidity of lightning upon the crouching beast. There was a tremendous shaking of the tree tops, and a confused wrestling, and jumping, and whirling over and about, and a cloud of upturned roots, and earth, and leaves, accompanied with the most terrific roars and groans. As I looked again, vision grew more distinct. An immense body, gleaming with purple, and green, and gold, appeared, convoluted around the majestic branches overhead, and stretching down was turned two or three times around the struggling lion, whose head and neck were almost concealed from sight within the cavity of a pair of jaws still more capacious than his own.

Thus, then, was revealed the cause of the sudden silence throughout the woods. It was the presence of the boa that had frightened the monkey and feathered tribes into silence. How opportunely was his presence manifested to us! A moment more, and it would have been too late.

Gallantly did the lion struggle in the folds of his terrible enemy, whose grasp each instant grew more firm and secure, and most astounding were those frightful yells of rage and fear. The huge body of the snake, fully two feet in diameter, where it depended

from the trees, presented the most curious appearances, and in such quick succession that the eye could scarcely follow them. At one moment smooth and flexible, at the next rough and stiffened, or contracted into great knots—at one moment overspread with a thousand tints of reflected color, the next distended so as to transmit, through the skin, the golden gleams of animal lightning that coursed up and down within.

Over and over rolled the struggling beast, but in vain all his strength, in vain all his efforts to free himself. Gradually his muscles relaxed in their exertions, his roar subsided to a deep moan, his tongue protruded from his mouth, and his fetid breath, mingled with a strong, sickly odor from the serpent, diffused itself through the air, producing a sense of oppression, and a feeling of weakness like that of breathing some deleterious gas.

I looked around me. Kaloolah was on her knees, and the negress insensible upon the ground a few paces behind her. A sensation of giddiness warned me that it was time to retreat. Without a word I raised Kaloolah in my arms, ran towards the now almost motionless animals, and turning along the bank reached the tree against which my gun was leaning.

Darting back I seized the prostrate negress and bore her off in the same way. By this time both females had recovered their voices. Clefenha exercising hers in a succession of shrieks, that compelled me to shake her somewhat rudely, while Kaloolah eagerly besought me to hurry back to the camp. There was now, however, no occasion for hurry. The recovery of my gun altered the state of the case, and my curiosity was excited to witness the process of deglutition on a large scale, which the boa was probably about to exhibit. It was impossible, however, to resist Kaloolah's entreaties, and after stepping up closer to the animals, for one good look, I reluctantly consented to turn back.

The lion was quite dead, and with a slow motion the snake was uncoiling himself from his prey and from the tree above. As well as I could judge, without seeing him straightened out, he was between ninety and one hundred feet in length—not quite so long as the serpent with which the army of Regulus had its famous battle, or, as many of the same animals that I have since seen, but as the reader will allow, a very respectable sized snake. I have often regretted that we did not stop until at least he had commenced his meal. Had I been alone I should have done so. As it was, curiosity had to yield to my own sense of prudence, and to Kaloolah's fears.

We returned to our camp, where we found our raft all ready. The river was fully half a mile wide, and it was necessary to make two trips; the first with the women and baggage, and the last with the horses. It is unnecessary to dwell in detail upon all the difficulties we encountered from the rapid currents and whirling eddies of the stream; suffice it that we got across in time for supper and a good night's sleep, and early in the morning resumed our march through the most enchanting country in the world.

A CHIMNEY SWEEPER'S BOY went into a baker's shop for a two-penny loaf, and conceiving it to be diminutive in size, remarked to the baker, he did not believe it was weight.

"Never mind that," replied the man of dough, "you will have the less to carry."

"True," rejoined the lad, and throwing on the counter three half-pence, left the shop.

The baker called after him that he had not paid money enough.

"Never mind that," halloed the boy, "you will have the less to count."

GEOGRAPHICAL AND ETHNOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS, FROM LT. MAURY'S RECENT PAPERS ON COMMUNICATION WITH THE PACIFIC.

LONGITUDINAL RIVERS.

A River that runs east or west crosses no parallels of latitude, consequently, as it flows towards the sea, it does not change its climate, and, being in the same climate, the crops that are cultivated at its mouth are grown also at its sources, and from one end to the other of it there is no variety of productions; it is all wheat and corn, or wine, or oil, or some other staple. Assorted cargoes, therefore, cannot be made up from the produce which such a river brings down to market.

On the other hand, a river that runs north or south crosses parallels of latitude; changes its climate at every turn; and, as the traveller descends it, he sees, every day, new agricultural staples abounding. Such a river bears down to the sea a variety of productions, some of which some one or another of the different nations of the earth is sure to want, and for which each one will send to the markets at its mouth, or the place whence they are distributed over the world. The assortments of merchandise, afforded by such a river, are the life of commerce. They give it energy, activity, and scope. Such a river is the Mississippi, and the Mississippi is the only such river in the world.

THE INTERTROPICAL SEA.

But the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea—call them the intertropical sea of America, for they are in fact but one sea—are supported by the most magnificent system of river basins in the world, and the grandest back country on the face of the earth. The rivers which empty into this American sea drain more back country than do all the seas of Europe; and they drain more climates than do all the other rivers which empty into any one of the three great oceans.

This intertropical sea is the receptacle and outlet for all the variety of produce that is known to the climates and soils of seventy degrees of latitude. (I am considering the Amazon as tributary to the Caribbean Sea, and will show it so to be.) The back country which supports and supplies with the elements of commerce this sea of ours, extends from 20° south to 50° north. The land within this region is fruitful beyond measure; it includes all the producing latitudes on the face of God's footstool; and every variety of production, except tea and a few spices, that the three great kingdoms of nature afford, is to be found here in the greatest perfection, profusion, and abundance. Coal measures without limit; mountains of iron; the best silver and the richest copper mines, and all the materials of mineral wealth, abound in this region as they do nowhere else. Nor is the vegetable kingdom less prolific or beautiful. The finest of wheat, the best of fruits, corn without measure, hemp, cotton, rice, sugar, wine, oil, indigo, coffee, and India-rubber, tobacco and timber, dyestuffs, and the finest of woods, are all to be found in this magnificent system of ba-

sins in vast quantities, and in great beauty and perfection.

Nor are the supplies from the animal kingdom on a scale less grand. Everything that island or mountain, sea-shore or inland basin, plains and pampas, tierras templadas or tierras calientes, can produce, is brought down to enrich this great cornucopia of commerce.—It occupies a geographical position that makes it the commercial centre of the sea; and on account of this very position it possesses advantages which no other part of the wide ocean has ever enjoyed. It is between two hemispheres. It has a continent to the north and a continent to the south. When it is seed-time on one side of it, it is harvest time on the other; and there will be, when its back country is settled up, a perpetual delivery of crops in its markets.

With Europe to the east and Asia to the West, it is midway between the two parts of the Old World, and it stands on an eminence of navigation and commerce which places all parts of the earth at its feet, and from which it may be made to send its surplus produce down the currents of the ocean or before the winds of heaven, to the people of every city and clime who are to be found on the sea-shore.

OCEAN CURRENTS AND WINDS.

An ocean current sweeps past the mouth of the Amazon into the Caribbean Sea, and makes that river discharge there. This current runs through the Yucatan pass; rushes by the Balize; and, dashing along at the rate of four miles the hour, whirls through the Straits of Florida, and enters the Atlantic Ocean in the shape of the benignant Gulf Stream, which tempers with its warmth the climates of Europe, and bears along thence the surplus produce that is delivered to it from this magnificent system of American rivers and river basins. On the other side, this intertropical sea is separated by a narrow strip of land from the Pacific Ocean, across which a good thoroughfare is required, in order to place this cornucopia of the world practically and commercially where it is geographically, viz., midway between Europe and Asia.

From this proposed opening, the trade-winds of the Pacific blow from the eastward to the westward, and extend entirely across that ocean. They blow with wonderful regularity, steadiness and constancy.—In "running down the trades," the mariner enjoys the most beautiful navigation. Without care for his safety, he sails before them day after day, for weeks together, never once touching a brace or hauling a sail. In them the sea is always smooth, and the climate delicious. Gales of wind are unknown, and life there becomes so delightful to the sailor, that with nothing to do, he congratulates himself, in mere wantonness, with the remark that "it is well all parts of the sea had not been so, else his mother would have been a sailor."

The trade-winds embrace a belt of ocean about fifty degrees of latitude in breadth, extending from twenty-five or thirty degrees north, to twenty-five or

thirty degrees south. An ordinary sailer in running them down, will average, day after day, two hundred miles. She counts upon them with as much certainty as the flatboat-man counts upon the downward current of the Mississippi river. To the north of the equator they blow from the north-east; to the south of it they blow from the south-east. From these winds the Pacific takes its name. The "keels," "broad horns," and rafts which come down the Mississippi might navigate the trade-wind region—opposite to the middle of which is the Caribbean Sea—with as much safety as they can descend the river. Open boats, yawls, have been known to sail thousands of miles before them across that ocean. So smooth and exempt from storms is it where these winds prevail, that much of the coasting trade of Peru is carried on by "catamarans," or "balsas." These "balsas" are nothing more than a few light logs tied together; in other words, they are a Mississippi raft, with a pole stuck down between two of the logs, to which a sail is tied. Piling their produce in sacks or bales on these logs, the Peruvians stand boldly out to sea, and perform sea voyages of considerable duration.

It is not overdrawing the picture to add, that, with a ship canal across the isthmus, the raft which comes down the Mississippi river or the boat for navigating the Illinois canal might, on arriving at New Orleans, and not finding a market there, stick up a pole for a mast, and, setting sail, go to the Sandwich Islands or Manilla, and perhaps to China. Getting through the Gulf to the canal across the Isthmus would be the most difficult and dangerous part of the voyage.—*Living Age.*

IMPORTANCE OF COMMON SCHOOLS.

It is manifest that the calm independence, the stern integrity, the enlightened patriotism, on which the stability of our civil institutions depends, are excellencies which can be the product only of a wise culture of the minds and hearts of the people, in the forming period of life. If the community would avail itself of the intellectual and moral power within its embrace, it must multiply, it must elevate, purify and quicken our common schools. If the community would show due respect to itself, it must show respect to the individuals who compose it. The whole body politic has a deep concern in the intellectual and moral development of every one of its members.

Did our fellow citizens but take this view of our civil condition, how would our common schools rise in their esteem! What necessary expenditure for their improvement, would be withheld, or grudgingly bestowed? How careful would the guardians of this great social concern be, in the selection of teachers; and how highly would those be honored, who faithfully and wisely discharged the duties of this most important office!

Whether we realize it or not, the most important trust we have to commit to others, is the care of our children—the most momentous of all our social con-

cerns, is the education of our children. Who, that has any forecast, can look upon the rising generation, without heartfelt solicitude? Out of these infants and joyous youth, are to arise the wise and good men and women, that shall bless—and the ignorant and vicious men and women, that shall curse the coming age. Can any one be indifferent whether they shall turn out to be of the one class or of the other? Because a few years will intervene before their characters shall be unfolded—because the changes from infancy to manhood will be gradual, let it never, for a moment be forgotten, that a momentous change is coming to all children that live. In every infant there are the rudiments of a man or a woman.

When we look at a flower—see its calix filled with petals of exquisite form, of the most delicate texture, of diverse colors so nicely blended, that no art can equal them—and withal perpetually diffusing a delicious perfume, we can hardly believe that all this variety of charms was evolved from a little seed, not larger than the head of a pin.

When we contemplate a sturdy oak, that has for a hundred years defied the blasts of winter—has spread wide around its sheltering limbs, and has seemed to grow only more hardy the more it has been pelted by the storm, we find it difficult to persuade ourselves that the essence, the elements of all this body and strength were once concealed in an acorn. Yet such are the facts of the vegetable world. Nor are they half so curious and wonderful as the facts which are disclosed in the history of the human mind and heart.

Here is a man, now master of twenty languages, who can converse in their own tongues with persons of as many different nations—whose only utterance thirty years ago, was very much like, and not any more articulate than the bleating of a lamb. Or, it may be, that he, who could send forth but a wailing cry, is now overwhelming the crowded forum, or swaying the Legislature of the nation by his eloquence, fraught with surpassing wisdom.

There is another, who can conceive the structure, and direct the building of the mighty ship that shall bear an embattled host around the world; or the man who can devise the plan of a magnificent temple, and guide the construction of every part, until it shall present to the beholder a perfect whole, glowing with the unspeakable beauty of a symmetrical form. And here is a third, who has comprehended the structure of the solar system. He has ascertained the sizes of the planets, and at what precise moments they shall severally complete their circuits. He has even weighed the sun, measured the distances of some of the fixed stars—and foretold the very hour, 'when the dread comet', after an absence of centuries, 'shall to the forehead of our evening sky return.' These men are the same beings, who, thirty years ago, were puling infants, scarcely equal in their intelligence to kittens of a week old.

There, too, is a man who sways the destiny of nations. His empire embraces half the earth, and

throughout his wide domain his will is law. At his command, hundreds of thousands rush to arms, the pliant subject of his insatiable ambition, ready to pour out their blood like water at his bidding. He arranges them as he pleases, to execute his purpose. He directs their movements, as if they were the creatures of his hand. He plunges them into battle, and wades to conquest over their dead and mangled bodies. That man, the despotic power of whose mind overawes the world, was once a feeble babe, who had neither the disposition nor the strength to harm a fly.

On the other hand, there is one who now evinces unconquerable energy, and the spirit of willing self-sacrifice in works of benevolence. No toil seems to overbear his strength. No discouragement impairs his resolution. No dangers disarm his fortitude. He will penetrate into the most loathsome haunts of poverty or vice, that he may relieve the wretched and reclaim the abandoned. He will traverse continents, and expose himself to the capricious cruelty of barbarous men, that he may bear to them the glad tidings of salvation. Or, he will calmly face the scorn or rage of the civilized world, in opposition to the wrong, however sanctioned by custom or hallowed by time; or march firmly to the stake, in maintenance of the true and the right. This man, a few years ago, might have been seen crying for a sugar-plum, or quarreling with his little sister for a two-penny toy.

And who are they that are infesting society with their daring crimes—scattering about them 'firebrands, arrows, and death,' boldly setting at defiance the laws of man and of God? Are they not the same beings that a few years ago were children, who, could they have conceived of such deeds of darkness as they now perpetrate without compunction, would have shrunk from them instinctively with horror?

These surely are prodigious changes, greater far than any exhibited in the vegetable world. And are they not changes of infinitely greater moment? The growth of a mighty tree from a small seed may be matter for wonder—for admiration; but the development of a being, capable of such tremendous agencies for good or for evil, should be with us all a matter of the deepest concern. Strange—passing strange, that it is not so! Go through the community and you shall find hundreds ready to adopt the best plans for the culture of vegetables, or fruit trees, where you will find one who is watching with due care over the growth of his immortal child.—*Rev. Mr. May's Lecture before the American Institute.*

DEATH OF AN EMINENT ARTIST.—Sir William Allen, an eminent painter, and President of the Royal Academy of Scotland, died recently at an advanced age. He was of humble origin, but rose, by his talents and perseverance, to his high position.

The Louisiana Statesman says that an insect, so small as to require microscopic eyes to detect it, is destroying the orange trees in that vicinity and on the seacoast. They attack the trunk and limbs in immense bodies, covering it as with a second bark, and seem to destroy it by absorption.

DUTY OF LEGISLATORS RESPECTING THE EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE.

None of the States of the north have ever given this matter the attention it demands. When we legislate about public education, this is the question before us: Shall we give our posterity the greatest blessing which one generation can bestow upon another? Shall we give them a personal power which will create wealth in every form, multiply ships, and roads of earth, or of iron: subdue the forest, till the field, chain the rivers, hold the winds as its vassals, bind with an iron yoke the fire and water, and catch and tame the lightning of God? Shall we give them a personal power which will make them sober, temperate, healthy and wise; which shall keep them at peace, abroad and at home, organize them so wisely that all shall be united and yet, each left free, with no tyranny of the few over the many, or the little over the great? Shall we enable them to keep, to improve, to double the manifold, the political, social, and personal blessings they now possess; shall we give them this power to create riches, to promote order, peace, happiness—all forms of human welfare, or shall we not? That is the question. Give us intelligent men, moral men, men well developed in mind and conscience, heart and soul, men that love man and God, and industrial prosperity, and social prosperity, and political prosperity, are sure to follow. But, without such men, all the machinery of this threefold prosperity is but a bauble in a child's hand, which he will soon break or lose, which he cannot replace when gone, nor use while kept.

Rich men, who have intelligence and goodness will educate their children at whatever cost. There are some men, even poor men's sons, born with such native power, that they will achieve an education, often a most masterly culture; men whom no poverty can degrade, or make vulgar, whom no lack of means of culture can keep from being wise and great. Such are exceptional men; the majority, nine-tenths of the people, will depend, for their culture, on the public institutions of the land. If there had never been a free public school in New England, not one half of her mechanics and farmers would now be able to read, not a fourth part of her women. I need not stop to tell what would be the condition of her agriculture, her manufactures, her commerce; they would have been, perhaps, even behind the agriculture, commerce and manufactures of South Carolina. I need not ask what would be the condition of her free churches, or the civil institutions which now beautify her rugged shores and sterile soil; there would be no such churches, no such institutions. Take away the free schools, you take away the cause of our manifold prosperity; double their efficiency and value, you not only double and quadruple the prosperity of the people, but you will enlarge their welfare—political, social, personal—far more than I now dare to calculate.—*Theodore Parker, of Boston, before a Teachers' Institute, Syracuse, N. Y., October 4, '49.*

DISTRICT SCHOOL JOURNAL.

ALBANY, MAY, 1850.

THE FREE SCHOOL CAMPAIGN.

The question is now again fairly before the people, whether the eleven thousand five hundred schools of the State shall be **FREE TO ALL**, or whether the children of poverty and destitution, the offspring of parents of straitened means, shall virtually be excluded; whether the property of the State, on a fair and equal valuation, shall contribute to the education of its future citizens, or whether each individual shall be left to his own means and resources for the accomplishment of this great object.

We are fully aware of the difficulties and embarrassments which surround the discussion of this question, in the form in which it is actually presented for our consideration; but we think we see our way clearly, and the indications of public sentiment which reach us from all quarters, satisfy us that a large majority of the voters of the State will strip the issue of all its disguises, and aim directly and most effectually at the **PRINCIPLE** involved, regardless of all minor and adventitious considerations, with which it may be temporarily connected.

The number of children estimated, by the Superintendent of Common Schools, from official returns procured for this express purpose, as having been annually excluded from the public schools, in consequence of the inability of their parents and guardians to meet the rate-bill imposed under the former law, for their instruction, was **FIFTY THOUSAND**. This estimate, we have ample reason to believe, was far below the reality. Full returns were received from about half the counties only; and the real extent of the destitution thus inflicted, must remain matter of inference. The naked fact, however, affords a most conclusive answer to the allegation so frequently heard, that our schools were virtually free before the passage of the Act of 1849. They were *not* free, in any sense of the term. If parents were able to meet the expense of tuition, they were, of course, at liberty to send; and in this sense every private and select school in the land is a free school. But what was the result when, either from misfortune, idleness, intemperance or vice—neither of which was chargeable to the innocent and hapless children—they were *unable* to meet the rate-bill imposed by the Trustees? *It was optional with the Trustees to exempt them from such payment or not*; and in at least **FIFTY THOUSAND** instances, this exemption was, in point of fact, **REFUSED**; and the Collector ordered to levy on the only bed, the only cow, the only means, perhaps, of subsistence, of the hapless family, to satisfy his warrant. Follow this class of cases a little further. Will these children, or any of them, again be permitted to venture within the precincts of the alleged *free schools*? or will they not

rather inevitably be consigned to the dominion of ignorance?

It is cheerfully conceded, that in the great majority of the school districts of the State, exemptions were liberally made by the Trustees; but in all they had the *power* of refusing such exemptions; and those who stood in need of their interposition could never be certain that it would be granted. How many children were kept out of the schools in consequence of this *uncertainty*, it is impossible to estimate. It is bitter mockery to call such a state of things a system of *Free Schools*.

How has it been with the operation of the new law—imperfect and defective as it is conceded to be—in this respect? In every locality where the schools have been opened, even for the scanty term of four months, they have been literally flooded with the glad footsteps of the children of the State,—who, the moment the doors were freely opened for their reception, came thronging in, to an extent hitherto unprecedented. The experience of nearly every school district in the State will bear us out in the assertion, that at no previous period of their history have the schools been more numerously or regularly attended, than during the past winter. Indeed, we shall be greatly disappointed if the annual reports for the year ending on the last day of December, 1850, while they will show a sad falling off in the average number of months taught, do not show an increase of *more than one hundred thousand children* to the number heretofore taught in the common schools.

Are not these facts, and the conclusions to which they give rise, worthy of consideration by every thoughtful mind? Are we prepared to abandon a system which is fraught with so many substantial blessings, for no other reason than because it is not yet perfect? We trow not.

EDUCATION, PAUPERISM AND CRIME.

"I am ready and willing to educate my own children: is it right or just that I should be compelled to contribute towards the education of my neighbor's children?"

And why not, pray? You are annually called upon to contribute your proportion of a tax of upwards of eight hundred thousand dollars for the support of paupers, made so, in great part, by their own folly, idleness, intemperance and vice, without any fault of yours; and you pay it cheerfully and ungrudgingly, without complaining that you are ready and willing to support yourself and those dependent upon you for sustenance. You are annually called upon to contribute your proportion of an immensely greater tax for the support of the criminal police of the State, for the erection of court-houses and jails and penitentiaries and houses of correction; for the arrest, trial, conviction and punishment of criminals, and for their support in prison and at the various landing places on their way to the gallows and to a premature death,—and you pay it cheerfully and ungrudgingly, without com-

plaining that you yourself are ready and willing to do right, and ought not, therefore, to help support your neighbors, who are pertinaciously bent upon doing wrong. And what proportion of these criminals, for whom you are thus heavily and uncomplainingly taxed, do you suppose, have had the benefits of an ordinary common school education? We will give you some idea, derived from official reports made to the Secretary of State's Office, of the proportion. Of 1,129 persons, being the whole number reported by the Sheriffs of the different counties of the State, as under conviction and punishment for crime during the year 1847, *twenty-two* only had a common education; *ten* only a *tolerably* good education, and *six* only were *well* educated! Of 1,345 criminals so returned in the several counties of the State for the year 1848, *twenty-three* only had a common education, *thirteen* only a *tolerably* good education, and *ten* only were *well* educated! The returns for 1849 are not yet before the public; but we venture to say they will exhibit substantially the same result. Now suppose that instead of *six* or *ten* of these wretched outcasts from society, the whole eleven or thirteen hundred had been *well* educated, how many of them would have been billeted upon the community for a life support in our prisons and penitentiaries?

The whole number of paupers relieved or supported by public charity in the year 1849, was 99,433, and the entire expense of their support during that year, was \$806,616 61! The cost of the several establishments in which they are thus supported, was \$424,250. Of the 99,433 persons whose support is thus permanently charged upon the community, what proportion, is it probable, have received even a common education? The returns are silent on this head; but every well informed individual can determine for himself, by a personal examination of the inmates of his County Poor-house. Of fifty thousand persons, the *causes* of whose destitution have been ascertained, nearly *twenty thousand* are attributable directly or indirectly to intemperance, profligacy, licentiousness and crime! And yet no long and loud blast of indignation is set up at the gross injustice and oppression of compelling the sober, industrious, moral and laborious portion of the population to contribute, at the rate of nearly a million of dollars a year, for *their* support. All this is quietly and patiently submitted to—not even regarded as a burden. No long array of petitions is pompously paraded before the Legislature for the repeal of this "aristocratic" and oppressive law. No children are deprived of their daily bread, or restrained in any of their reasonable wants, because of any defects in this benevolent system. But once make your *schools FREE TO ALL*—open wide the doors of knowledge and wisdom and virtue to every child of the State—say to the miserable offspring of penury and destitution, "Take your place in the district school, on equal terms, by the side of the children of wealth and distinction and station, and participate in the blessings of learning without money and without price,"—

and what a burst of indignation and spirit and rancor shall be created! Thousands of voices are lifted up in protestation, in anger, in derision. The schools are closed; the teacher dismissed; the children remanded to the streets. "Tax us unsparingly for the support of paupers, mendicants, vagabonds from every land and every clime—we will cheerfully pay it. Load us down to the very earth, for the support of the criminal, the prison, the penitentiary, the gallows. Not one word of remonstrance or reproach shall escape our lips; but call not upon us to contribute from our abundance to the education, even of our own children, if, with them, we are to dispense any portion of that blessing to the children of our neighbors!" Verily, "the children of this world *are*, in their generation, wiser than the children of light!"

THE BLESSINGS OF EDUCATION.

An Extract from an Address delivered at Cairo, Greene County, by WM. H. WEBSTER, April 9th, 1850.

The subject of Education, at the present day, stands unrivaled amid the improvements and discoveries of modern times. In corroboration of the fact, we need but contemplate the provisions and facilities now afforded all, for the attainment of a high and honorable standing in society, and at least a partial knowledge of the liberal branches of education. In no age has the mass of population been so favorably provided for as the present. Free and gratuitous education in many States of our Union being now offered, while the provisions of others favorably mitigate the exigencies of the indigent. No one, under our present common school system, need grow to manhood in ignorance, but rather all may acquire a sufficiency to transact the incidental business concerns of life. What more, indeed, can be done to facilitate the means of education. Yet we doubt not there are many who, through indolence and recklessness, will grow to man and womanhood in disgraceful ignorance, standing to the world as monuments of infamy and disgrace; but, through diligence and perseverance, a nation may become philosophers, and every hill and plain be the sacred abode of learned men. Upon education depends the individual prosperity and happiness of men. Upon education rests the future destiny of Nations and of Empires. By education, nations fabricate a chain of communication by which intelligence, like the lightning's flash, echoes over Earth and Sea. By education, the Earth's weight is estimated, and solidity computed. Not only this, but man, guided by reason, acquaints himself with the celestial worlds, measuring distances, computing dimensions, comprehending periods and orders of those planetary worlds, till he would seem almost to comprehend the height, depth, length, and breadth of creation itself. Ruminating on the visible, he at last is lost in astral climes, beyond the reach of mortal sight. Science is compared to a hill with a summit towering to the skies, while its base is not by bounds confined. Who would not wish to participate an ascent and view the broad expanse of Nature's

shrine? Though a rugged hill, the peering shrubs wave their balmy furze, while the gallant sons of lore shall pluck from floral boughs ambrosial fruits, and feast beneath their luxuriant branches. Never was the summit yet deserted, and indeed never can it be. Therefore fear not, the fountain of Education is as inexhaustible as the sun, though ever emitting his refulgent rays, he still remains unchanged. Who cannot see a beauty in Education? Though wealth, honor, and renown, are objects of thought and pursuit, yet they exist only in education. Their glory may there be obtained, and, when once possessed, the richest gifts of earth cannot purchase it, nor its combined powers extort it.

DISTRICT LIBRARIES.

The Library Fund for the State, consists of \$55-000, appropriated from the income of the United States Deposit Fund, and an equal sum raised by tax. The object of the Legislature was to furnish every district in the State, with a library of good books for the instruction of adults, as well as infants. Out of the same, \$110,000 was annually appropriated for the payment of teachers' wages. A sum was, therefore, devoted to the tuition of children, equal to twice the sum set apart for the purchase of books. Besides this, the whole income of the Common School Fund, a like amount raised by tax, all sums raised by towns for School purposes, and all local funds are expended in the payment of Teacher's wages. To us, it appears clear, that the amount expended for books, which are the silent teachers of all those who have advanced to a certain degree in knowledge, is quite small enough in comparison with the sum expended in the wages of Teachers, whose business it is to guide the toddling steps of infancy in the paths of science.

The common School is only the threshold of the temple of knowledge. Books are its corridors, entrances, and aisles, which lead to its inner apartments and higher seats. A child goes to the Common School, not merely to learn to read, write, and cipher, but having learned reading, writing, and arithmetic, that he apply his knowledge to the business of life.

We are impressed, deeply, and unalterably, with the conviction that the policy which founded, and has built up the School Libraries, is the *wisest and most democratic policy* which any human government ever adopted. If this policy is adhered to, and goes hand in hand with the common school system, it will be the means of enlightening and enfranchising all the inhabitants of the earth. We should look upon the abandonment of this policy as the triumph of ignorance and parsimony.

Our friendship for the School Libraries is based chiefly upon their political tendencies, their democratic influence. "*Magna est veritas et prevalebit.*" is an old Latin proverb, which a modern political philosopher has translated into, "Error is not to be feared when Truth is left free to combat it." But,

before the invention of printing, and the publication of books, truth was never left free to combat error. Forms of government, institutions, laws, religion, were imposed upon the masses of the people, and upheld by brute force. All the so-called republics of antiquity were in fact oligarchies, in which a few men, styling themselves citizens, assumed all political power. The tillers of the soil in Sparta, Athens, Rome, were, with rare exceptions, slaves. Nine tenths of all the cultivated land on the surface of the earth is now tilled by serfs, or slaves. Why so? Because truth is not left free to combat error. Books would teach serfs and slaves to know how base a thing it is to be a slave.

In books all forms and systems of government and religion, all theories, opinions, acts and motives of men, are discussed, attacked, defended, praised or ridiculed; and the people sit in judgment to weigh and deliberate, to approve or condemn. Before the invention of printing, there could be no tribunal of such universal jurisdiction, possessing also such irresistible power to enforce its decrees.

"Before the diffusion of knowledge and inquiry," says Haslitt, "governments were for the most part the growth of brute force, or of barbarous superstition. Power was in the hands of a few, who used it only to gratify their own pride, cruelty, or avarice, and who took every means to cement it by fear and favor. The lords of the earth, disdaining to rule by the choice or for the benefit of the mass of the community, whom they regarded and treated as no better than a herd of cattle, derived their title from the skies, pretending to be accountable for the exercise or abuse of their authority, to God only—the throne rested on the altar, and every species of atrocity or wanton insult, having power on its side, received the sanction of religion, which it was, thenceforth, impiety and rebellion against the will of Heaven to impugn. This state of things continued and grew worse and worse, while knowledge and power were confined within mere local and private limits. Each petty sovereign shut himself up in his castle or fortress, and scattered havoc and dismay over the unresisting country around him. In an age of ignorance and barbarism, when force and interest decided everything, and reason had no means of making itself heard, what was to prevent this, or act as a check upon it? The lord himself had no other measure of right than his own will; his pride and passions would blind him to any consideration of conscience or humanity; he would regard every act of disobedience as a crime of the deepest die, and to give unbridled sway to his lawless humors would become the ruling passion and sole study of his life. How would it stand with him within the immediate circle of his influence, or his arrogance? Fear would make them cringe, and lick the feet of their haughty and capricious oppressor; the hope of reward, or the dread of punishment, would stifle the sense of justice, or pity; despair of success would make them cowards, habit would confirm them into slaves, and they

would look up with bigoted devotion (the boasted *loyalty* of the good old times) to the right of the strongest as the only law. A king would only be the head of a confederation of such haughty despots, and the happiness, or rights of the people, would be equally disregarded by them both. Religion, instead of curbing this state of rapine and licentiousness, became an accomplice and a party in the crime; gave absolution and plenary indulgence for all sorts of enormities; granting the forgiveness of heaven in return for a rich jewel or fat abbey lands, and setting up a regular (and what in the end proved an intolerable) traffic in violence, cruelty and lust. As to the restraints of law, there was none but what resided in the breast of the *Grand Seigneur*, who hung up in his court-yard, without judge or jury, any one who dared to utter the slightest murmur against the most flagrant wrong. Such must be the consequence, as long as there was no common standard or impartial judge to appeal to; and this could only be found in public opinion, the offspring of books. As long as any unjust claim or transaction was confined to the knowledge of the parties concerned, the tyrant and the slave, which is the case in all unlettered states of society, might must prevail over right; for the strongest would bully, and the weakest must submit, even in his own defence, and persuade himself that he was in the wrong, even in his own dispute: but the instant the world, that dread jury, are impanelled, and called to look on and be umpires in the scene, so that nothing is done by connivance or in a corner, then reason mounts the judgment-seat in lieu of passion or interest, and opinion becomes law instead of arbitrary will; and farewell feudal lord and sovereign king!

From the moment that the press opens the eyes of the community beyond the active sphere in which each moves; there is from that time inevitably formed the germ of a body of opinion directly at variance with the selfish and servile code that before reigned paramount, and approximating more and more to the manly and disinterested standard of truth and justice. Hitherto, force, fraud and fear decided any question of individual right or general reasoning; the possessor of rank and influence, in answer to any censure or objection to his conduct, appealed to God and to his sword;—now a new principle is brought into play, which had never been so much as dreamt of, and before which he must make good his pretensions, or it will shatter his strong holds of pride and prejudice to atoms, as the pent-up air shatters whatever resists its expansive force. This power is public opinion, exercised upon men, things and general principles, and to which man's physical power must conform, or it will crumble it to powder. Books alone teach us to judge of truth and good in the abstract: without a knowledge of things at a distance from us, we judge like savages or animals from our senses and appetites only: but by the aid of books and of an intercourse with the world of ideas, we are purified, raised, enabled from savages into intel-

lectual and rational beings. Our impressions of what is near to us are false, of what is distant, feeble; but the last gaining strength from being united in public opinion, and expressed by the public voice, are like the congregated roar of many waters, and quell the hearts of princes. Who but the tyrant does not hate the tyrant? Who but the slave does not despise the slave? The first of these looks upon himself as a God, upon his vassal as a clod of the earth, and forces him to be of the same opinion; the philosopher looks upon them both as men, and instructs the world to do so. While they had to settle their pretensions by themselves, and in the night of ignorance, it is no wonder no good was done; while pride intoxicated the one, and fear stupified the other. But let them be brought out of that dark cave of despotism and superstition, and let a thousand other persons, who have no interest but that of truth and justice, be called on to determine between them, and the plea of the lordly oppressor to make a beast of burden of his fellow man becomes as ridiculous as it is odious. All that the light of philosophy, the glow of patriotism, all that the brain wasted in midnight study, the blood poured out upon the scaffold or in the field of battle can do or have done, is to take this question, in all cases, from before the first gross, blind and iniquitous tribunal, where power insults our weakness, and place it before the last more just, disinterested, and in the end more formidable one, where each individual is tried by his peers, and according to rules and principles which have received the common examination and the common consent. A public sense is thus formed, free from slavish and other traditional assumption of insolent superiority, which the more it is exercised becomes the more enlightened and enlarged, and more and more requires equal rights and equal laws. This new sense acquired by the people, this new organ of opinion and feeling, is like bringing a battering train to bear upon some old Gothic castle, long the den of rapine and crime, and must finally prevail against all absurd and antiquated institutions, unless it is violently suppressed, and this engine of political reform turned by bribery and terror against itself. Who in reading history, when the characters are laid open, and the circumstances fairly stated, and when he himself has no false lies to mislead him, does not take part with the oppressed against the oppressor? Who is there that admires Nero at the distance of two thousand years? Did not the *Tartuffe* in a manner hoot religious hypocrisy out of France; and was it not on this account constantly denounced by the clergy? What do those who read the annals of the Inquisition think of that dread tribunal? And what has softened its horrors but those annals being read? What figure does the massacre of St. Bartholomew make in the eyes of posterity? But books anticipate and conform the decision of the public, of individuals, and even of the actors in such scenes, to that lofty and irrevocable standard, mould and fashion the heart and inmost thoughts upon it, so that something manly, liberal and generous grows out of the fever

of passion and the palsy of law; and this is what is meant by the progress of modern civilization and modern philosophy.

As knowledge and civilization advance, the influence and advantages of the privileged few necessarily decrease. These two present an everlasting counterpoise to each other, which is as true as that if you enlarge one half of a right angle you diminish the other half. Soldiers, prints, books, in turn govern the world; and the last do it best, because they have no pretence to do it at all, but by making the public good their law and rule.

CHEMICAL SCIENCE.

At the commencement of the eighteenth century chemical philosophy began, vigorously and successfully, to be applied to the useful arts, and directed to the investigation of nature in all her various departments. Previous to the time of Cullen, the science of chemistry had been regarded in the light of a valuable appendage to medicine, and as useful chiefly, as it contributed to the improvement and more general success of medical remedies. That eminent physician and accomplished scholar adopted a more enlightened and comprehensive view of the science, as not only capable of throwing light on the constitution of bodies, but of conducing to the improvement and advancement of manufactures and of the arts generally. The discoveries of Dr. Black, relative to the composition of limestone, the existence of latent heat, and of the operation of heat in changing the state of bodies, converting solids into liquids and liquids into gases, form a most important epoch in the history of chemical philosophy: disclosing as they do the hidden causes of many intricate phenomena, and the gems of many of those gigantic improvements in machinery which have given so powerful an impulse to modern civilization. He demonstrated that the change of solids to the liquid state was uniformly accompanied by the absorption of heat, which is concealed or *latent* in the liquid, so as not to be indicated by the thermometer. His theory assumes that heat is a material substance of excessive tenuity, existing in bodies, in variable proportions, perceptible to our senses and affected by the thermometer, in a free state, but occasionally entering into union with other substances, or separable from them in accordance with the usual laws of chemical attraction; that in fluids it is combined or latent, but on their conversion into solids it is separated in a free or sensible state. Many, however, of the ablest and most scientific philosophers of the last century seem disposed to regard heat as the result of a vibrating motion among the particles of matter, the vibrations increasing in rapidity and extension with the increase of heat, accompanied in fluids by a motion of the particles around their axes. This hypothesis seems to have been favored by Newton, and is strongly supported by the imponderability of heat and its continuous extrication by friction, as well as by several other facts, apparently explicable solely by the vibrating theory.

THE MOON.

Calandrini, a Professor of Mathematics in Geneva, was the first who improved the Newtonian theory of the Moon. He investigated by a direct method, the principal lunar equations, as well as the smaller inequalities which Newton had omitted to demonstrate. He also revised the investigation of the apsides; but Dr. Matthew Stewart, Professor of Mathematics in Edinburgh, discovered, by a simple geometrical pro-

cess, the true motion of the line of the apsides: and in 1749, Walmeley produced a correct analytical investigation of the motion of the lunar apogee, which he extended and completed in 1758. In 1743, Clairaut began his investigations of the lunar theory; and in 1747, comprised all the subordinate motions of the moon, under the celebrated general problem of the three bodies. Euler and D'Alembert arrived at a similar conclusion at about the same time. After incredible labor, Clairaut succeeded in obtaining a result which accorded perfectly with observation, and confirmed the simple law of gravity, as laid down by Newton. Euler, by a different procedure, also obtained the true variation of the lunar apogee; and D'Alembert pushed his calculation still farther, and approached still nearer the result of observation. Thus the law of attraction was finally established upon the basis of mathematical demonstration.

The improvement of the lunar tables, obviously of such importance for ascertaining the longitude at sea, next attracted the attention of mathematicians. Clairaut produced a set of lunar tables, distinguished for accuracy and precision. Euler devoted to the same task his unrivalled analytical skill. Mayer, a director of the Observatory at Gottingen, distinguished himself in the investigation, and derived the elements of his lunar tables from an examination and comparison of numerous eclipses and occultations. The theory of Jupiter's Satellites is of great importance in this point of view. In 1766, La Grange introduced into his equations the attractive force of the sun, and the mutual attraction of these Satellites. His investigation, however, although a model of analytical research, was not conclusive. In 1773, La Place having found that the variation of eccentricity of Jupiter's orbit must cause a corresponding alteration in the motion of the Satellites, transferred the same idea to the perturbation of the moon, and thereby discovered the true theory of the secular equation, or rather of that vast cycle in which the lunar revolutions are alternately accelerated and retarded. He also demonstrated that the attractive force of gravity must be transmitted fifty millions of times swifter than light, which travels at the rate of 200,000 miles in a second.

Onondaga County—The Trumpet Call.

The able and spirited address reported by Mr. W. L. CRANDAL from a Committee of the Onondaga County Teacher's Association, will be published in our next number. We cordially commend it to the perusal of all our readers, as a full, searching, and eloquent exposition of the great principle of free schools.

ONONDAGA has taken a noble stand in favor of sustaining what may be not unfrequently characterized as the MOVEMENT OF THE AGE—the principle of UNIVERSAL EDUCATION. From her position, her large and intelligent population, and the influence which she is capable of exerting through her noble corps of teachers, her voice will be listened to with attention and respect.

Other counties will follow in her train: and a response from every section of the state will soon go up to the question propounded by the legislature, which will silence all future cavil, and nobly vindicate the rectitude of public sentiment on this all-engrossing topic.

STATE FREE-SCHOOL CONVENTION.—THE BALL IN MOTION.

At a Convention of the Town Superintendents of Onondaga county, held at Syracuse on the 17th inst., W. L. CRANDAL, Esq., Clerk of the Board of Education of the City of Syracuse, being in the Chair, and S. D. LOCK acting as Secretary, the following resolutions were offered and adopted:

"Resolved, That this Convention is in favor of Free Schools.

"Resolved, That whatever may be the defects, in detail, of the present Free School Law, we shall vote to retain it, as the only means of manifesting our friendship for the glorious principle, that the property of the State should educate the children of the State—trusting to the future for all desired amendments.

"Resolved, That we recommend that a State Convention of the friends of Free Schools, be held at the City Hall, in the city of Syracuse, on Wednesday, the 12th day of June next, at 10 o'clock A. M., with a view to organized effort in sustaining the honor and permanent welfare of New-York, which are involved in the decision of this question."

We trust this timely call will be universally responded to. Let every section of the State in favor of FREE SCHOOLS send delegates, and let every individual friendly to this great principle co-operate in the movement, by personal attendance, or otherwise; and the campaign of 1850 will be vigorously opened.

Will not the several TOWN SUPERINTENDENTS and friends of Free Schools, immediately take the necessary measures for calling the preliminary Town and County Conventions? Let a thorough and efficient organization be effected in every school district, town, Assembly district and county—and the cause is safe.

BLOOD AND THUNDER!

Hear the *Cortland Democrat* on the Free School question:

"What we or any other men would have said to the law with *proper amendments* is not now the question. We have it submitted to us *as it is*. We must endorse it as it is, or condemn it as it is. With such an alternative presented, we have not a particle of hesitation in making our decision. WE SAY, SWEEP THIS ARISTOCRATIC AND OPPRESSIVE LAW FROM THE STATUTE BOOK.

"If we are to have a free school law hereafter, let its provisions be properly digested in *advance*. Let no Christopher Morgan be allowed by a *Whig Legislature*, to mount as a popular hobby, just before an election, a raw, crude, and undigested scheme of pretended philanthropy, to create troubles, difficulties and

legislations, which years will not suffice to obliterate the effects of, in the school districts of this State."

FREE SCHOOLS an ARISTOCRATIC Law! The education of all the children of the State, by the property of the State, an OPPRESSIVE law! Well, gentlemen, if you are preparing to take that side of the question, guess you'll have to "face the music!"—*Syracuse Dem.*

THE FREE SCHOOL QUESTION.

MR. KINGSLEY'S REPORT.

[Continued.]

REPORT of the Select Committee of the Assembly on the Petitions for the Amendment or Repeal of the Free School Law.

It may not be amiss, for the proper understanding of some portions of the subsequent part of our report, for us here to briefly mention the leading features of the common school system in operation up to the passage of the free school law.

By that system the State annually distributed to the several towns of the State, their proportionate share of the revenues of the Common School Fund. The boards of supervisors, at their annual meetings caused to be levied, on each of the towns in their counties, a sum equal in amount to that received from the State, and such further sum as the electors of the town might have directed; these sums, (with the addition of that received by some towns from local and other funds, and amounting, in all the State, to an annual average of \$20,000,) made the public money of the town, which was divided among the several school districts of the town in proportion to the number of children therein, over five and under sixteen years of age, according to the last report of the district trustees. Schools were to be kept during four months in each year, and for such longer time as the trustees should determine, and the amount remaining due for teachers' wages, after deducting the public money, was raised by rate-bills from those sending to school, they being taxed for that purpose in proportion to the number of days their children had attended the school.

As we have before remarked, this system worked well. Minor defects were from time to time discovered in it, which were rectified as fast and as well as possible, but no material alterations were made in it from the time of its institution in 1812, except those before mentioned, until within a very recent period.

Within a few years, however, in some of our cities and large villages, a different system was adopted and with great success. We allude to what is now called the "free school system." It is very different from the other, dispensing with the rate-bill entirely, and raising the amount left unpaid for the expenses of the district, after deducting the public money, by a direct tax upon the property of the district. The advantage of it is that no one is deterred from sending his children to school through fear of the rate-bill, which he is too poor to pay, or from a pride which forbids him to ask an exemption from its burthens, though such an exemption was provided for the benefit of such per-

sons. In our large cities, which are crowded with the children of foreigners and others, the system worked, and ever must work, advantageously, from the large number of those who draw public money and the greater comparative cheapness of supporting schools in such places, than on the sparse and thinly settled country districts.

A defect in the old system, of a grave and serious character, was that many who really ought to have been exempted from any and all the burthens of common schools, either from the inattention or remissness of the district trustees, or a pride on their part, for which they would not claim it, were not exempted, and were deterred from sending their children to school. In 1845, the State Superintendent made an effort to learn, from the reports of subordinate school officers, the number of children who were, for these reasons, kept from our schools. The returns upon this head were very imperfect, but enough was returned to authorize the opinion that, in all the State, over 46,000 children were thus deprived of a participation in the benefits of our common schools. This was a serious evil; these children were to be provided for, we would have been unjust to have left them practically unable to enter those schools, which the State and its citizens had provided for their benefit as well as for that of any other children.

The free school laws in the cities, and to which we have just referred, had been found very useful in bringing in this class of children. The opinion began to prevail, that the system would operate equally well in the country, and would bring in those children there, whose parents were unable or unwilling, as the law then was, to send them to school. Petitions for that purpose were sent in to the Legislature of 1849; the State Superintendent of that year recommended the plan, and, accordingly, a general free school law was prepared and submitted to the people, at the general election in that year, for their adoption or rejection. It is useless to say that the law was adopted by a majority of thousands, of hundreds of thousands; and thus, in a day, that system of common schools, which had been in existence since 1812, was laid away, and a new one, and to a great extent untried, substituted in its place. Though the provisions of this law are known and familiar to us all, it may not be improper for us to refer briefly to its leading features. In the first place, it provided that, "Common schools in the several school districts in this State shall be free to all persons residing in the district over five and under twenty-one years of age;" and, that non-residents might be admitted, on such terms as the trustees should impose. It next provided that, in addition to the amount of public money before raised, there should be collected, by a tax levied on the counties, a sum equal to that received by the counties from the State; making an increase of fifty per cent upon the amount theretofore raised by a tax; the whole amount so raised, to be divided among the districts in the same manner as by the previous law. Then came the third

section of the act, which, taking that power from the trustees, in whose hands it had before been, gave to the inhabitants of the district the voting of what the common school expenses of the district for the succeeding year should be; and the amount they fixed, after deducting the public money, was to be raised, by a tax upon the property of the district liable to taxation. As a safe guard against the contingency that the inhabitants might refuse or neglect, in some cases, to make the necessary appropriations, the trustees were authorised to raise, by tax as before, an amount sufficient, after deducting the public money, to support a school four months in the year. So that, as in the old law, a school was required to be kept that length of time, let what would happen.

This law has now been in operation some four months only, and yet we are already daily receiving petitions for its amendment, or its total and entire repeal. Already there have been presented over forty petitions for its amendment, and over two hundred and fifty for its repeal. They come from every corner of the State; from our villages; our secluded districts; from our boards of supervisors; our town meetings; our district meetings; our public officers; public meetings; from the high and the low, the rich and the poor; those who voted for, and those who voted against it; all ages, conditions and classes, are here, and respectfully ask us, either to make essential and important amendments to the law, or, by its repeal, to place us where we were before, upon the platform we had occupied since 1812. In this manner, and for these purposes, some twenty thousand names, of which over two thousand are for amendments, and over seventeen thousand are for repeal, have been presented to us; and we are called upon, by every consideration of duty and interest, to listen to these complaints, and grant such relief as it may be in our power to bestow.

It is not strange, that the change from the rate-bill to the new system should be accompanied with evils, difficulties and embarrassments. That was to be expected, but no one could have calculated, judging from the workings of the free system in our cities and villages, that its operations, in the country, would be so disastrous to the best interests of our schools, as the result has shown. For years, the average length of time that schools have been taught, has been eight months throughout the State; now, your committee hazard nothing in saying, that it will not average more than five or six months, and were it not for the necessity imposed by law, that schools shall be kept up for four months in the year, the average would reach even less than five months; and the time in which our schools are kept open, would thus be reduced nearly one-half, whereas now, as it is, this term is reduced at least one-third from its usual average before. Not only are our schools thus closed for a portion of the year, during which they were before taught, but this diminution is accompanied by much ill-feeling on the part of those who were intended to be benefited by

the act in question; indeed, it cannot be denied, that as the law now is, it is condemned by the whole and united voice of the people of the State, who, in great numbers, as it were, have come to us, and petitioned that we repeal it from our statute books, or else make such amendments to it as shall make it more acceptable to them, and, as they claim, and we believe, more beneficial to the cause of common schools. Among these petitioners we recognise names of high standing and influence, men of experience and judgment, men of wealth and indigence, men of all classes and situations in life; and believing as we do, that no system, however perfect in itself, can be of benefit, when opposed by those interested in it, we feel ourselves bound to do what we can to allay the existing excitement, and to suggest such amendments or alterations as shall bring back our common schools to their former healthful action, their former hold upon the affections and esteem of our people. And in order that we may recommend such amendments or alterations as will best accomplish this end, it is proper to examine into the principal causes of complaint now made against the law, that, like wise physicians, understanding the disease, its location, and its causes, we may be able to apply the proper remedy.

The most prominent objection, and your committee is constrained to say, that in their opinion it is a valid one, is the unequal rate of taxation in different counties, towns and districts even, which is caused by the practical working of the present law. No doubt can be entertained that this taxation is most unequal and should be corrected. The public money is distributed into the several school districts of the town, in proportion to the number of children therein of a certain age. Now, in the large districts there being a great number of these children, more money is received than in the smaller ones, the proportion being in some instances as great as from 1 to 3, or even 5; that is to say, while one district may receive \$25 of public money, another one in the same town, and it may be an adjoining one, receives \$75, \$100 or even \$150, while it is evident to every one, that the expense of the several schools differ but comparatively in a small degree. A house has to be built in each, fuel furnished, teacher boarded, and teacher hired, so that the expenses of the smaller one are nearly as great as those of the larger school, though the amount of their public money is so very much different in amount. And again, in the larger districts, there is more property, usually, than in the smaller, and the consequence is, that when the tax is levied upon the district, to collect the amount remaining due for teacher's wages, &c., the amount raised in the smaller in proportion to its valuation is very much greater than in the larger district.

A very few examples may be introduced, well authenticated, which will more completely show the present operation of the system, as far as it regards his subject.

In Queens county, we are told by petitioners from

there, the following are the amounts of taxable property in several of the towns, the number of children, and the amount per cent paid for the school tax, viz:

	Taxable property.		Scholars.		Tax.
Bohys,	\$160,000	over	200	has to raise	36c on \$100
Great Neck,	311,000	"	92	"	" 12c "
Flower Hill,	195,000	"	98	"	" 13c "
Cow Bay,		"	70	"	" 4c "

Again: in Cortland county, in one district, where the assessment of property is about \$12,500, it has been found necessary to keep up a school eight months, to raise \$67 on the taxable property of the district; while on the other hand, in another district where a school is kept ten months, with much higher wages to teachers than in the other, they have to raise but \$63, by a district tax, upon the property of the district, which is assessed at from \$100,000 to \$150,000.

Again: in many of the districts, such is the disparity between the valuation and number of children, that the district, where it receives its appointment of the public money, receives from \$10 to \$50 less than the amount actually paid by it upon the tax.

Other instances have come to the knowledge of your committee, but we will not take time to mention them; those we have given, are not extreme ones, or such as rarely occur; from the nature of the case, they must be frequent and universal, and present a strong argument against the details, at least of the present law.

Another objection, and one which goes further than the last, is, that it is not right for the State to raise money by a tax, for this purpose, to any greater extent than it did under the old law. The objection opposes the present system of taxation itself, without regard to any particular inequality which may result from it. In regard to this objection, your committee are partially apart. In one view of the case, if the amount could be raised directly by a State tax, they would recommend that it should be so collected; as that cannot be done, a diversity of views arises, in regard to the practical operations of a system of county taxation, in lieu of a State one, which with other matters caused us to disagree, and has its influence in preventing us from making a unanimous report.

Another objection to the law is the power conferred in the third section of the act, which leaves it in the power of the districts to vote down the estimates of the trustees, and in effect, to prevent the school from being kept longer than the four months which the law prescribes. This provision leaves it in the power of disaffected individuals, who may happen to obtain a majority in their district, to shut up their school for eight months in the year, a power which we think should not be left to the vacillating mind or excitement of a public meeting, but which should be restored to the trustees, who are freely chosen by the voters of the district, as capable and qualified to act for the rest in the entire management of their common schools, or else be definitely fixed by the legislature itself. Your committee are unanimously of the opinion, that

had this provision been left out of the law of 1849, many of the bad effects of the free system, would have been avoided, and there would be more harmony in our common school operations than now exists. The practical effect of the provision, was to array one class against another, and create divisions, dissention and ill will in a cause which, of all others, should receive the united, hearty and cordial support of all.

Another objection, and one to which we have before referred, is, the operation of the present law, in diminishing the length of time in which our common schools are taught. A bare reference to the petitions for the repeal of the law will abundantly show, that this objection is founded upon the truth. It is a lamentable fact, that in many, and your committee is of the opinion, that in a majority of the districts in the State, either no school has been voted, or that the trustees are tied up to a four, five or six month's school. At least it cannot be denied or disputed, that the average length of time, during which schools will be taught in 1850, will be much under the average of 1849, or of any of the preceding years. This fact should have a great influence upon our action. It is our duty, our imperative duty, to so regulate our common school system, that our schools be not diminished in usefulness, or shortened in their terms, and if our laws are such as to diminish their usefulness, in any respect, or to close them up, for a period when the interests of our children demand they should be open; then we should apply a corrective, either in the total repeal of those laws, or the enactment of such amendments as will accomplish the object desired. We should do something to heal this difficulty, and to bring back our schools to the situation which they occupied but a few short months ago, from which they have so suddenly, so unfortunately fallen.

Many other objections are urged by your numerous petitioners, for which they claim that the law should be repealed. Time, however, will not permit us to do farther than to barely refer to them. It is claimed that it is not the duty of the government to support common schools by compulsory taxation; that it is a law of nature that a parent should take care of the education of his children, while the law, in effect, takes it from him and gives it to the State; that minors are taxed for their property, without their consent; that old men, who have, by their industry, accumulated property and educated their own children in such a manner as they thought best, are now taxed for the education of the children of others; that the law, though intended for the benefit of the poor man, works against him, as it in many instances shuts up the school against his children for eight months in the year; that the old law afforded all needed help to the poor, and was a voluntary, while this is a compulsory one; that the law is unconstitutional, or if not, is unjust and cannot be sustained; that it helps the vicious and indolent only; that a tax might as well be levied and collected for the benefit of religious and charitable societies, with

a thousand other objections which we will not mention, as they are of a minor character, and should not have a controlling influence in a matter of the great importance which this possesses; and in regard to the objection which we have just specified, it will be seen, by a glance, that many are equally applicable to the old as to the new law, and indeed, if valid here, would be equally valid against any taxation for any purpose whatever.

With this view of the case, your committee are unanimously of the opinion, that something should be done to relieve those who are really suffering under the present law, to relieve the interests of our common schools from the incubus which lays upon them. Of the necessity of this, there can be no doubt; the difficulty, and it is a great one, is to apply proper and appropriate means for the accomplishment of the object so ardently desired. In common with every one, we have but one wish, one aim in the matter; and that is, to so remedy the evils under which we are now laboring, as to place our common schools on a proper, sure, and lasting basis, a basis upon which they may accomplish their mission as the mental and moral nurseries of those who are to succeed us.

(Concluded next month.)

AMERICAN LIBRARIES.

A Boston paper condenses from the Theological Review, an interesting account of the libraries in New England, from which it appears that the Harvard College library has some 56,000 volumes, and 25,000 bound pamphlets. This is rich in the transactions of learned societies, and in current English literature—in the most celebrated reviews, and magazines that have been published. It has some five hundred volumes of engravings, and a most valuable collection of coins. Brown's University, though it is not the largest, has what is called the most valuable and select library in the United States. Among its rare works, it has a complete copy of the *Moniteur*, from 1729 to 1826, 77 volumes, and a collection of 196 works relating to Shakspeare.

Of private libraries, Mr. George Ticknor's, of Boston, is spoken of as one of the most valuable, particularly in all that relates to Spanish literature. The library of Prescott, the historian, is also named as rich in Spanish literature. Next the libraries of Mr. Thomas Dowse and Mr. Z. Hosmer, of Cambridgeport—Dr. Sears, of Newton, rich in German history, secular and church; Mr. Charles Dean, of Cambridge containing many works on American history, and Mr. Brown of Providence, whose collection of books on our history, prior to 1700, is said to be the best in the country; also the library of Mr. George Livermore, of Cambridge, who has 3000 volumes of rare value. The latter collection has many curiosities; among them the 'Catholicon,' a huge folio, printed at Mentz, 1460 by Guttentburg, the inventor of printing—the oldest printed in the country bearing the date. A copy of the first book ever printed—the Maxarim Bible, about 1455—is in a private library in this city, and cost in London £500 or \$2,500. Mr. Livermore has specimens of the works of the principal printers of the 17th and 18th centuries.

In a single century, four thousand millions of human beings appear on the face of the earth, act their busy parts, and sink into its peaceful bosom.